Regulations for nursing homes

*308. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long felt need to regulate functioning of nursing homes in private sector:

(b) whether Government propose to bring a model law to regulate their functioning;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) health being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to regulate the functioning of private and public hospitals as well as nursing homes. Some of the States like NCT of Delhi, Sikkim, Assam, Madhya Pradesh etc. have necessary legislation in this regard. The Central Government is considering to enact a legislation prescribing standards and specifications that will stipulate minimum standards for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments. The proposed enactment would lay down norms for assessment, accreditation, inspection, certification, regulation of such clinical establishments as well as maintenance of records.

Non-tariff barriers

*309. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether over $ 300 million Indian spice export industry is facing a fresh non-tariff barrier with the European Union attaching new phyto-sanitary conditions for the import of chilli and chilli products by its member countries;

(b) if so, whether the European Union's latest directive has hit the export of chilli and chilli products from India;

(c) whether any remedial steps have been taken by Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent these steps would help the Indian spice export industry which is facing a great threat due to the EU directive?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Recent directive (issued on 20.6.2003) of European Union (EU) that all imports of chilli and chilli powder to EU member countries should be accompanied by an analytical report to the effect that product is free from Sudan-1, is not a new non-tariff barrier in as much as Sudan-1 has been banned by EU for use as a colourant since 1997.

(b) While it is too early to assess the impact of the recent directive of EU, exports of chilli and chilli products conforming to prescribed standards should continue normally.

(c) and (d) Registration Certificates of the two concerned exporters and the processor exporter, who had supplied the chilli powder to these exporters, have been suspended.

(e) Prompt action against the errant parties should send a correct signal to the European Union authorties and thereby help Indian spice export retain its position.

Uniform Civil Code

*310. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has underlined the need for enactment of a Uniform Civil Code for all sections of people in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India in its judgement delivered on